

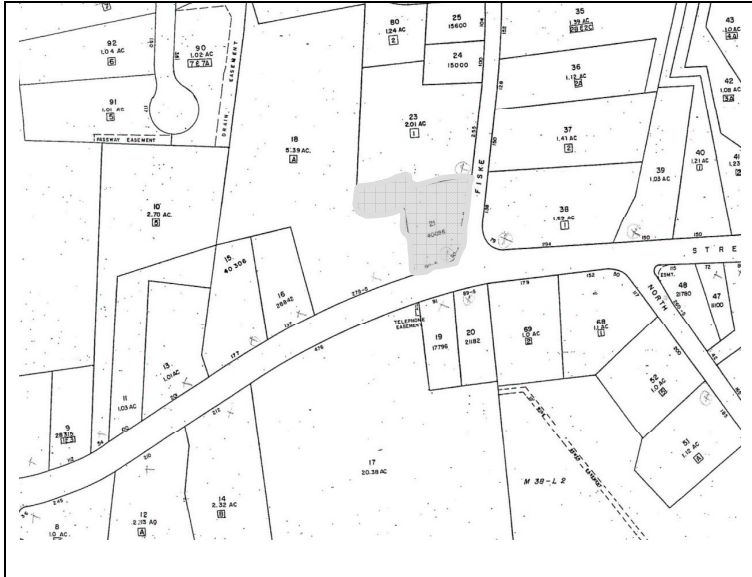
# FORM B – BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING  
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

## Photograph



## Topographic or Assessor's Map



**Recorded by:** Julie Ann Larry  
**Organization:** ttl-architects  
**Date (month / year):** March 2010

Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number

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**Town:** Tewksbury

**Place:** (*neighborhood or village*)  
North Tewksbury

**Address:** 1500 Andover Street

**Historic Name:** 1<sup>st</sup> Baptist Church of Tewksbury

**Uses:** Present: Baptist Church & Daycare facility  
Original: Baptist Church

**Date of Construction:** 1843

**Source:** Church Records

**Style/Form:** Greek Revival/Romanesque Revival

**Architect/Builder:** Edward Melville Bridge (1958)

### Exterior Material:

Foundation: Granite

Wall/Trim: Vinyl Siding

Roof: Asphalt Shingles

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:**  
Parish Hall (1960) by Edward Melville Bridge

**Major Alterations (with dates):**  
Front Addition (1884)  
Rear Additions (early 20<sup>th</sup> century)

**Condition:** Fair

**Moved:** no | | yes | X | **Date** 1867

**Acreage:** 0.94

**Setting:** Set close to busy Route 133 on a flat site.  
The area is predominately residential to the west, but increasingly commercial to the east towards Exit 49 on I495.

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

TEWKSBURY

1500 ANDOVER STREET

## MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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Area(s) Form No.

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\_\_\_ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

*If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.*

*Use as much space as necessary to complete the following entries, allowing text to flow onto additional continuation sheets.*

### ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

*Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.*

The rectangular gable form of the main portion of the church building at **1500 Andover Street** is attached to a hip-roof rectangular addition at the rear (north). The rear addition is two by five bays and one story in height. At the front of the church is a central tower flanked by curved additions with pyramidal roofs. The front entrance was part of the remodeling of the church in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century influenced by Romanesque Revival style popular for religious architecture in the second half of the century. Typical Romanesque Revival details include the basilica form of the central tower and long nave beyond, the semi-circular arch of the main entrance door, the beltcourses marking the horizontal divisions of the tower, and the geometrical ornament on the walls, above the windows, and on the corner pilasters of the tower and belfry.

The oldest portion of the building is three bays deep. Windows feature semi-circular windows over large rectangular four part windows. At the rear (north) end of the church two narrow chimneys pierce the interior end of the gable roof. The roof forms are covered in asphalt shingles. Walls are clad in vinyl siding. The central tower is square in plan and divided into three divisions. The first division features the main entrance on the south façade, the second division features a rectangular tablet bearing the church name and building dates, and the third division features a 8/8 sash window below a rosette on the west, south, and east elevations. Wide corner boards are located on each division of the tower. Above the square tower is the recessed belfry with eight louvered sides and an octagonal spire.

The Parish Hall is a two story building to the northwest of the church. The three by four building is an 84' x 40' rectangular plan resting on a concrete foundation. The gable roof is sheathed in asphalt shingles. The walls are clad in vinyl siding. The paired windows are 1/1 sash windows. The main entrance is shielded by a projecting gable roof.

### HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

*Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.*

In the early 1842, Jacob Knapp was preaching at the First Baptist Church in Lowell. Several families from North Tewksbury began travelling to Lowell for services including members of the Farmer, Twiss, Wood and Puffer families. According to church records Mrs. Mehitable Twiss convinced members of the Trull family to also attend Baptist services in 1842 and the locals soon began their own services in the Trull home. In 1843 the Tewksbury Baptists formed their own church, built on Jesse Farmer's land. The first Deacons were Nathaniel Trull and Abijah Upham. In 1846 the church built a stone parsonage that was sold in 1946 when a new parsonage was constructed at 29 Fiske Street. In 1867 the church was moved to land donated by Jesse Loring Trull and the Warren Wood house was moved north along Fiske Street (20 Fiske Street TEW.30). The new church was expanded with a new entrance in the Romanesque Revival style in 1884.

On either side of the central tower, the pyramidal roof additions originally featured a delicate wooden balustrade at the roof's edge. The balustrade was removed prior to 1964. The walls of the semi-circular side additions were originally decorated with a band of wood panels below the siding. These panels were obscured by the installation of a band of vertical vinyl siding.

On the interior a pipe organ made by the Jessie Woodbury Company of Boston in 1906 and installed in 1907. This was the third organ installed in the church. The organ is a 17 rank, 20 stop instrument with a 32-foot base pedal stop and chimes. According to the Church's website an original console with tracker action was attached to the center of the organ façade. In 1955-6 the tracker organ was electrified and a new electric console installed. The wood panel façade of the organ was designed by John Goodwin of Chelmsford and feature four false wood pipes on either side of the 21 brass pipes. Additional interior work includes the installation of steam heat in 1949. That same year storm windows were added, as well as insulation.

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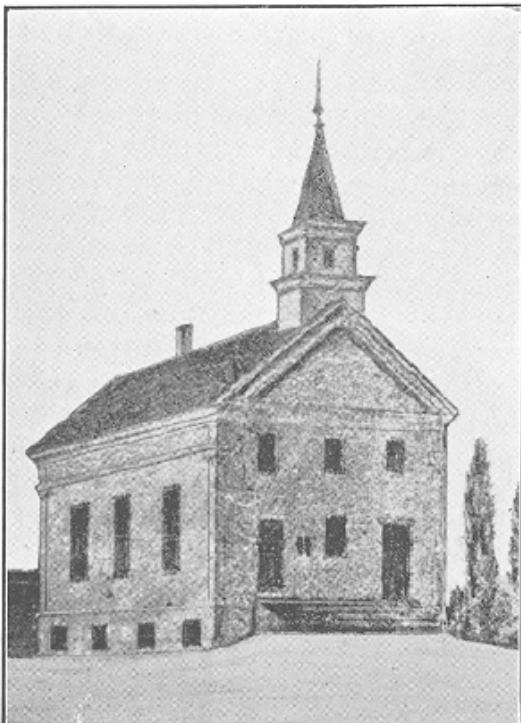
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Additional changes in the 20<sup>th</sup> century were made the late 1950s with a plan for a new Parish Hall to accommodate the increased membership of the Sunday School. The plans were designed by Edward Melville Bridge. In 1959 work was begun on the Parish Hall on land donated by Mr. & Mrs. Randolph Fitzgerald. The Parish Hall consists of classrooms, and on the second floor was built with a large function hall with a stage at one end and a kitchen at the other end of the hall. The Parish Hall is leased during the week to the Hilltop Daycare Center.

Edward Melville Bridge (1890-1979) was a Boston architect and a former professor of architecture at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He also designed the First Presbyterian Church in Quincy at 270 Franklin Street in 1960.

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Sketch of c1845 church before renovation in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century

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TEWKSBURY

1500 ANDOVER STREET

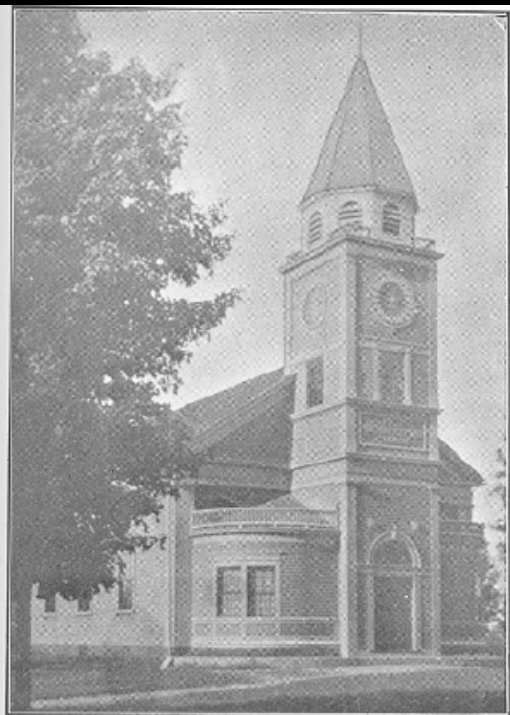
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Sketch of church after c1882 renovation in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century